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28 August 1952

25X1

MEMORANDUM FOR: Participants in the USSR and Southeast Asia Area Programs conducted by the Office of Training, summer 1952.

SUBJECT : Evaluation of Program.

N.B. I attended only part of lectures.

The Office of Training wishes to prepare an evaluation of the two summer area programs held during July and August. This evaluation depends primarily on your assessments. It will be used for guidance in planning future related programs. Your contribution of comment and constructive suggestions will be much appreciated (It is emphasized that collection of only favorable, or unfavorable comments is not the object of this assessment. It is desired to assemble objective favorable and unfavorable comments as guidance for planning future related programs). It is suggested that your remarks include comment on the following points.

1. Do you feel that this type of area program can contribute to increasing analyst effectiveness? If so, why? If not, why not? What type of program would be more useful? Yes.

2. Do you feel that this particular program was useful to you? If so, how? If not, why not? It was useful to me in improving my area background, and in making me especially aware of certain principles and trends, which

3. Please comment on the following: in general, only such experts can point out.

a. Content and scope of subject matter (Particularly, did you feel that it was relevant or irrelevant to your normal work problems; that it was possibly relevant, but of a nature that it is assumed analysts in your component necessarily have before they can qualify for the work for which they were employed; that it was relevant, but too general or too specific.) Relevant, but in a large extent, too general. Should be "tailored" more to our specifications. Branch chiefs could help in this.

Generally satisfactory

c. Time allotted for course (Was the number of weeks inadequate, adequate or excessive? Was the period of two hours for each session too short, satisfactory, or too long?)

Adequate

d. Was the balance between lecture and discussion satisfactory, or do you feel that it would have been helpful to have more discussion or less discussion? Would you favor having certain periods devoted entirely to discussion of selected problems?

Balance between discussion and lecture good. Adequate opportunity for discussion. In many cases, the discussion periods following the lectures were of more direct value than the subject matter of the lectures. Should be encouraged

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1. Do you approve of the policy that students not be required to do collateral reading or prepare papers, or do you think it would be both reasonable and useful if students expected to do limited reading and preparation of papers? Keep present policy. To expect outside reading and term papers, is theoretically desirable. In practice, its application would be a virtual impossibility.
In addition to your remarks on the above points, any other comments or suggestions that you may wish to contribute for improvement of future related program will be appreciated.

Please forward your written comments to Room 1301, "I" 25X1 Building as early as possible.

I approve heartily of the program, and feel that both the members of my Section and I will benefit genuinely from the lectures heard. However, it is my conviction that the lecture series would have been better, had ~~attempt~~ Branch Chiefs, Division Chiefs, and persons on the non-supervisory working level, had greater opportunity to outline their special needs and to indicate the topics and emphases ~~xxx~~ corresponding to their special needs. In other words, merely to hire a distinguished expert is insufficient. Maximum results, I believe, would be obtained if he were presented with an outline of subject matter which is of greatest interest to us, in order to allow him to build his lectures around this, rather than the lecture notes which he has from his university classes. This, of course, must be accomplished within the limits of ~~Securityxxx~~ good security.

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